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Letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement released by the Director of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) dated 22 December 2016, with regard to the adoption of the "sanctions resolution" imposed by the Security Council against the DPRK (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement released by the Director of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Security Council "resolution on sanctions" 2321 (2016) rejected

The Director of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Foreign Ministry on Thursday released a statement in denunciation of the "resolution on sanctions" against the DPRK, which was cooked up by the Security Council at the instigation of the United States (US) and its vassal forces, branding the nuclear warhead explosion test of the DPRK as a "threat" and "provocation".

The statement said that neither sanctions of the United Nations nor independent sanctions can ever work on the DPRK, which has proudly emerged as a nuclear power and space power despite the unprecedented sanctions slapped on it by the US and other hostile forces for more than half a century.

Bitterly denouncing Security Council "resolution on sanctions" 2321 (2016) as wantonly violating the sovereignty of the DPRK and as a criminal document without any legality, the statement went on:

The DPRK's nuclear warhead explosion test was the exercise of the right to self-defence and a practical counteraction against the US and other hostile forces' nuclear threat and reckless sanctions and a demonstration of the strongest will of its people, who are ready to counter any provocation of the enemy.

The DPRK's legitimate self-defensive measure to defend its dignity and vital rights and protect genuine peace from the ever-increasing nuclear war threat from the US is the legal right of a sovereign State, which does not run counter to any international law.

This time the US and other hostile forces cooked up a blockade-style "resolution on sanctions", totally blocking sea lanes, to say nothing of trade and scientific and technical cooperation, discarding even the hypocritical signboard of excepting economic activities related to people's lives that they put up in the past, in the wake of adopting Security Council "resolution on sanctions" 2270 (2016) for the purpose of isolating and stifling the DPRK.

The latest Security Council "resolution on sanctions" has created the danger of imminent war on the Korean peninsula, as there are no judicial or institutional mechanisms to avert war and armed conflicts, and the "resolution" is as good as a declaration of war.

The US and other countries involved in adopting the "resolution on sanctions" will have to be wholly responsible for the ensuing consequences.